

REMARKS


Claims 117 and 118 were pending, with claims 1-116 and 119-138 having been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer. By this Preliminary Amendment, new claims 139-151 have been added. Accordingly, claims 117, 118 and 139-151 are now pending and presented for examination in this application, with claims 117, 139, 144, 145 and 148 being in independent form.

Applicants maintain that this Preliminary Amendment does not introduce new matter. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request entry of this Preliminary Amendment.

If a telephone interview would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, Applicants' undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone him at the telephone number provided below.

Authorization is hereby given to charge the \$172.00 fee for the two independent claims (in excess of three covered by the basic filing fee) to Deposit Account No. 03-3125. If any additional fees are required, authorization is hereby given to charge the amount of any such fee to Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul Teng, Reg. No. 40,837
Attorney for Applicants
Cooper & Dunham LLP
1185 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036
(212) 278-0400